

Our Daily Bread

Sliced Thin by The Editor

Alex. H. Washburn
APO New York

Missing and No Regrets

The club, "APO New York" has been a family newspaper mail-order business for many years. It was started in 1917 and has since then carried more than 100 subscriptions for The Star to local boys.

But "APO New York" fell on slim days after Germany surrendered and deployment of troops in the Far East began. It was down to three subscriptions in December and today the score is zero.

With no regrets, for the passing of "APO New York" spells happier days for all of us.

Not all the men are home. Every mail brings every newspaper a deluge of complaints from those still overseas. Many of these letters are mimeographed, giving evidence that the boys are being organized.

We must handle this problem by some fair and impartial scale—length of overseas service, length of service overseas, length of service overseas, length of service overseas.

Meanwhile, the case of us forget that one of the greatest means of helping the men now overseas is to demand conscription so that all citizens shall bear equally the hardship and burden which is entailed by military life.

By JAMES THRASHER
New York Times Staff Writer

One account of the Army's radar contract with the moon said that a loud speaker connected with the system picked up the echo as sound—not a very unusual sound, but an echo from the moon.

Well, the cry of a newborn child is not a very unusual sound; either, but it is significant. Likewise the audible echo from the moon was an unusual sound.

This is surely a beginning, not an isolated phenomenon. Some day men will receive an untimely echo from Mars and the more distant planets.

But just what we do about it—we, the overwhelming majority of non-scientific, uncomprehending people—will speed ever farther to outer unimagined horizons to human view. They will present fields for pioneering of a sort which is fantastic, if it can be thought of at all.

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Legion Asks Crackdown on Vets' Bureau

Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The American Legion called on Congress today for an immediate investigation of a "tragic breakdown" in the Veterans Administration under Gen. Omar N. Bradley, who took over as chief less than six months ago.

John Steele, the Legion's national commander, made the "demand" for action in letters to all members of Congress and said the lawmakers should see that their "mandates are no longer ignored by the Veterans Administration."

VA officials reserved comment on the letter, but Steele's aides said his release was preceded by an acrimonious telephone battle between Steele and Bradley over major VA policies.

Later, officials of the administration announced that Bradley would give a report at a late afternoon news conference on his six months as administrator.

Steele's letter was warranted because: 1. Between 300,000 and 500,000 disability cases cannot receive proper compensation without undergoing physical examinations because of VA's failure to secure adequate medical records from the Army and Navy.

2. The hospitalization applications of more than 7,000 needy veterans await processing.

3. Thousands of army hospital beds are not being utilized at a time VA hospitals are badly congested.

4. Unprocessed applications for education and training under the Bill of Rights total 102,439, in addition to 20,411 pending claims for insurance premium waivers, and 287,000 unanswered letters from veterans seeking information on various topics.

5. VA's "apparent failure" to procure enough competent personnel, and the continuing use of incompetent and inexperienced employees.

Steele asserted the figures he cited were "absolute minimum figures reflecting the extent of the problem."

Referring to Bradley's appointment as administrator last August, Steele said servicemen believed it was "the duty of the VA to protect the rights of the veteran."

"However," he declared, "that has not been the case. The sharp telephone clash between Steele and Bradley yesterday reportedly centered about hospitalization policy, a question which has the Legion and VA temporarily at odds."

Bradley has said that the current influx of veterans with service-connected disabilities is "unprecedented." VA estimates are that approximately 70 per cent of the 83,000 veterans in its hospitals now have non-service disabilities.

In a reference to this issue, Steele wrote in his letter that "unless adequate numbers of beds are provided thousands of these (non-service disability) men would be thrown out of the hospitals and into the hands of charitable groups."

The Legion commander told Congress that "measures for emergency hospitalization should be adopted at once, the authorized program for hospital construction launched immediately and the unworkable and unwarranted delay in processing claims for benefits eliminated."

Chicago, Feb. 1.—(UP)—A new suspect identified in police files as a man named Smith, and described by a former North Side waitress as one she heard talking to a man who was being taken to her bedroom today in the kidnapping of six-year-old Suzanne Degnan.

A ransom note left by the person who kidnapped Suzanne from her bedroom asked \$20,000.

Smith, a handyman, was seized after Gloria Williams, 23, alias Patricia Gordon, told officers in Sheboygan, Wis., that she had overheard "Smith" tell a tavern companion that "the job ought to be worth at least \$20,000."

Police said a photograph of the man in custody would go sent to Sheboygan, where the waitress now is serving a 30-day sentence for vagrancy charges. If she identifies the photograph, they said she will be brought here to face the man.

Police said that Smith is employed in the neighborhood where Suzanne was kidnapped from her home last Jan. 7.

Police picked up Desere Smet, 35, a janitor, who was being questioned in the case, after Miss Williams first made her statement to Sheboygan police two weeks ago. He was released, however, when she was unable to identify him.

Suzanne, blue-eyed daughter of an Office of Price Administration executive, was abducted Jan. 7. Parts of her body were found in sewer catch basins near her home.

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Dave Ward, Conway, has been appointed to a seven year term on the board of trustees for the A. and M. college at Pine Bluff by Governor Laney. He succeeds himself.

Nearly 60 per cent of all teachers in rural elementary schools having one or two teachers have had less than two years of education beyond high school.

Japs Couldn't Have Hit Fleet Based in California Instead of Hawaii, Says Adm. Smith

By JOHN L. CUTLER
Washington, Feb. 1.—(UP)—Vice Adm. W. W. Smith, former chief of staff of the Pacific fleet, said today he believed Japan would not have attacked the fleet on the west coast as it did at Pearl Harbor.

Smith gave his opinion to the Congressional Joint Harbor Committee as an "amateur strategist."

He said he had no quarrel with the fact that the fleet was based at Pearl Harbor, however. He said the fleet received excellent training under the system carried out there.

Rep. Bertrand W. Gearhart, R., Calif., asked Smith for his opinion as to what would have happened if the fleet hadn't been in Pearl Harbor.

"Had the fleet been on the Pacific coast I do not believe Japan would have attacked in the manner that she did at Pearl Harbor," Smith replied.

"It is ridiculous to believe that such a force could have approached San Pedro without detection. There is a lot of merchant shipping in that area. Some one would have detected it."

They would have had to refuel three times the way they did at Pearl Harbor, he said.

"I do not believe any intelligent enemy would attack the fleet on the west coast and leave Hawaii as a place from which it could be hit on the way back."

He believed Japan would have taken Oahu or one of the other islands in an amphibious operation and it is his belief they could have done it.

He said it would have been comparatively easy for Japan to have taken one of the less-populated islands of the Hawaiian group and attacked Pearl Harbor from there.

He added the opinion that Japan would have inflicted more damage on the United States in the Pearl Harbor raid if the attacking planes had knocked out oil supplies and machine shops at the base.

Rep. John W. Murphy, D., Pa., criticized the fact that "none of the top air command officers of the Pacific fleet was consulted by Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, fleet commander, on war warnings received from Washington."

Murphy read him testimony before one of the previous investigations in which it was asserted that Smith was not consulted on the Navy war warning.

Smith's testimony also brought out that he didn't feel any army on Oahu could be depended upon to provide a check on the way the fleet was being handled.

Smith rejected Murphy's suggestion that Kimmel stressed offensive training at the expense of defense arrangements.

"I believe that is something for you (the Congressional committee) to decide," Smith said.

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The attorney general has held that veterans are not required to pay state sales tax when they purchase used vehicles from the government. The opinion went to Deputy Prosecutor M. H. Dean of Morrilton.

By GEORGE ZARRY
Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 1.—(AP)—The Rev. Frank E. Siple, stern-visaged, 53-year-old minister, found solace in his Bible today as he awaited sentence for the poisoning of his 17-year-old son, Charles.

He showed absolutely no signs of remorse, "attendants at the jail reported."

They said he slept soundly, ate his meals regularly and read passages from his Bible.

Siple pleaded guilty late yesterday to what he said was the mercy killing of his daughter, Dorothy Ann, in July, 1939. Judge Leiminger, D. Verderer remanded him to jail for sentencing after Siple's attorney asked for a sanity examination.

The Church of God pastor, who once was forced to resign his position "for being overly attentive to women members of his congregation," said in a confession to the slaying that he feared his daughter was mentally incompetent.

"I couldn't bear to see my daughter go to an asylum for the rest of her life," he said.

Siple told Judge Verderer that he had no remorse, and that he had no intention of going to an asylum for the rest of his life.

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Truman Calls in Leaders of Steel Strike

By WILLIAM NEEDHAM
Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—President Truman today summoned the steel strike leaders to the White House and called on them to settle the strike.

The White House announced that the fact finding board had been called to a 4 p. m. (EST) conference with Mr. Truman.

An OPA official said Bowles had been asked to call a meeting in South Carolina and return to the capital immediately. He was expected late tonight or early tomorrow.

Bowles, who reportedly faces a \$250-ton increase in steel prices, had indicated to stay in South Carolina and call a meeting of the industry.

The new plan for ending the 12-day-old steel strike was reported in the hands of top level White House officials, but it was not to be involved as yet.

Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Top level White House advisers were reported today with a new plan for ending the steel strike, but federal seizure of the industry still is out of the picture.

Some form of showdown action is embodied in the new proposal, according to an official who withheld details, but it was not committed to President Truman once its details are reviewed.

Mounting urgency spurred work on the new formula, for government aides are frankly concerned about the stranglehold effect of the steel shutdown on other industries.

At the same time, a high Labor Department official indicated the government's latest move in the General Motors strike appeared to have missed, fire temporarily, at least.

Chances for an early end in that 73-day old walkout once more were rated slim.

Federal seizure of steel plants was ruled out for the present by Mr. Truman yesterday when he told his news conference that such a step was not now contemplated.

The chief executive declined to predict a "break" in the steel stalemate, although he did say in response to a request for comment that he believed the general labor situation is improving all the time.

There was no indication what fresh steps government advisers were considering in the steel situation, but they were not likely to be the principal obstacles to a steel wage agreement.

TPA, the steel industry's labor relations arm, in a statement which caught government officials by surprise, declared Wednesday a steel price increase of 20 per cent would be needed to meet the industry cost of the 18-1/2 cent hourly wage increase proposed by Mr. Truman.

TPA's new steel price study prepared at the president's request, still contends that \$2.50 an hour is all it will approve. The chief executive, however, has discussed a figure of around \$4.

Any government price increase for steel at the present time would be offset to compensate for current and past operating losses and to balance wage raises, officials explained. An increase for this purpose would come only after a subsequent review of the industry's position.

26,300 Troops to Land Today From Ships on 2 Coasts

By The Associated Press
More than 19,500 troops, carrying more than 19,500 returnees, are scheduled to arrive today at four West Coast ports while more than 6,800 passengers are due to depart from the same ports.

Arriving at New York are seven transports with 6,784. Three vessels with 48 troops are expected at Norfolk.

West Coast arrivals include: San Francisco, 11 vessels with 4,068; Los Angeles, three ships with 3,100; San Diego, three ships with 1,874; Seattle, Wash., one ship with 1,280.

The Coast Guard was the only established military service in Alaska before World War II. For outstanding service to that territory, it earned the nickname "Godfather of Alaska."

Less than 25 years ago, New Hampshire prohibited the sale of makeup preparations.

Chester Bennett Bids Goodbye to Wife and Unborn Child as Jap Executioner Approaches

By HAL BOYLE
Hong Kong, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Autumn comes with cool benediction in Hong Kong after the long, hot, dry summer.

From his cell in Stanley prison, Chester Bennett said the morning of Oct. 20, 1943, dawn clear and beautiful. It was his last half-day on earth.

Chiang Foresees End of His Regime as All China Unites to Form Democratic Nation

By SPENCER MOOSA
Chungking, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The emergence of China's millions from civil strife into a day of full freedom for all political parties was viewed today by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as possibly foreshadowing an end to his leadership.

The man whose one-party rule has continued for 18 years said frankly that from now on the heavy task of rebuilding the nation rested not alone on the Kuomintang (Nationalist party) "much less on me as an individual."

Whether in the government or out of it, he told last night's closing session of the historic political consultation conference, he would sincerely work for peace and solidarity.

He pledged that all the far-reaching decisions of the unity conference would be carried out. These included: Free and open activities by all political parties, nationalization of the army; nationwide compulsory education; and economic reconstruction.

Chiang said, No. 2 Communist who helped reach the unity conference accord, today expressed full confidence that there will be no more civil strife in China. He said that apart from minor clashes in Shantung and the east river district of Kwantung, near Canton, peace prevails throughout the country.

He affirmed that the Communist party is prepared to carry out fully all agreements reached at the conference.

Chou said Communist forces would be reduced to 20 divisions, which would entail demobilization of about three-fourths of its army.

He added that the military committee of three dealing with reorganization of China's army would settle down to serious business soon. President Truman's special envoy, General Marshall, is a member of the committee which also includes the government and Communist representatives.

Chiang personally regarded the program as affording "a most fitting bridge to the period of constitutionalism."

The generalissimo stressed two points: 1. The repeal or amendment of all existing wartime laws conflicting with freedoms of the people.

2. Guarantee of freedom of learning, with religious beliefs and political views not allowed to interfere with school and college administration.

Government and Chinese Communist representatives whose armed forces had been fighting for control, particularly in north China, heard Chiang say:

"Our immediate task is to make all troops in the country of whatever party and in whatever region obey the government and its command."

Assuring the unity delegates he wished to release "some of the thoughts which have been in my mind for many years and which I've never expressed before," Chiang confided:

"Ever since boyhood I've taken no interest in politics. My lifelong ambition and work have been to devote myself to the cause of the national revolution with the object of saving the nation and people."

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
London, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Bevin told the United Nations security council today that "Moscow and Communist party propaganda" endangered world peace.

This he said, was "the real danger" to peace.

Bevin made this statement in blasting back at Russian charges that the United Nations was "a tool of the West" by maintaining troops which, the Soviet said, supported Fascist and pro-monarchist elements in Greece.

Bevin demanded a straight yes or no verdict from the council on the Russian charge.

Countering the charges of Soviet Vice-Commissar Andrei Vishinsky that a "white terror" exists in Greece, Bevin said British troops had supported the right of all factions to a voice in Greek affairs and had refrained from imposing on the country a minority government.

Bevin could have done what Mr. Vishinsky did in Romania, he said. "We could have put a minority government in—we had the power. But we did not. We let the Greeks decide their own fate."

Bevin said the British government believed that democracy must come from the bottom up, not from the top.

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"This incessant suspicion is the danger," Bevin asserted. "I ask for a straight verdict—have we been endangering the peace?"

Restoration of Spanish Throne Looms

By FRANK BREEBE
London, Feb. 1.—(UP)—Don Juan, eldest surviving son of the late King Alfonso XIII of Spain, arrived from Switzerland today en route to Portugal for a reported meeting with Gen. Francisco Franco to discuss restoration of the Spanish monarchy.

Simultaneously, a United Press dispatch from Madrid said the Franco government was expected to adopt increasingly severe measures against armed opposition in Spain. A Spanish army communiqué noted the force of "bandits" was operating in the Giron area on the Bay of Biscay coast.

A Lisbon report quoted Royalist sources as confirming that Don Juan and Franco will meet on the Spanish-Portuguese frontier.

The 32-year-old pretender to the throne was accompanied on his flight from Switzerland by his wife, Dona Maria, his political advisor Eugenio Vegas, and Viscount Juan Luis Roca-Mora.

Don Juan will stay in London a few days, only long enough to arrange air passage to Lisbon. He was traveling on a British transit visa and was expected to do any political negotiating here.

Lisbon monarchist sources said Don Juan was clinging to his preference for a Spanish throne, but he would accept that there only if assured that any invitation from Franco to do so had no strings attached.

Spanish informants in London said Franco was adamant against stepping down unless assured of a good position in a monarchic regime.

Don Juan's full name is Juan Carlos Teresa Silverio Alfonso de Bourbon, third son of King Alfonso XIII, who abdicated the Spanish throne in 1931 and died in Rome 10 years later. Don Juan is a grandson of Queen Victoria of Britain.

United Press dispatch from Madrid said that well informed sources took a serious view of a small raid made on the Spanish coast near Gijon early in the week. "on France by men whom a dits."

Ford to Shut Down Due to Steel Strike

Detroit, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The Ford Motor Co. which yesterday assembled 2,200 passenger cars and trucks announced today all vehicle production will cease by the end of next week because of shortages resulting from the steel strike.

Approximately 18,000 assembly line workers have been laid off at the Ford Rouge plant in nearby Dearborn. Another 11,300 will be affected by the halting of steel production at the Ford plants in Buffalo, Chester, Pa., Chicago, Edgewater, N. J., Louisville, Ky., St. Paul and Kansas City.

An additional 5,000 workers will be affected by the halting of steel production at the Ford plants in Memphis, Tenn., and Dallas, Texas, closing Wednesday, and at Richmond and Long Beach, Calif., closing Friday.

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Bevin could have done what Mr. Vishinsky did in Romania, he said. "We could have put a minority government in—we had the power. But we did not. We let the Greeks decide their own fate."

Bevin said the British government believed that democracy must come from the bottom up, not from the top.

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"This incessant suspicion is the danger," Bevin asserted. "I ask for a straight verdict—have we been endangering the peace?"

Pounding the table emphatically, Bevin said he wanted to see the "white terror" in Greece, he said. "We could have put a minority government in—we had the power. But we did not. We let the Greeks decide their own fate."

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Communism Propaganda World Threat

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